

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A holding device for holding at least one receiving element, provided for receiving a biological specimen, in a container, comprising:

a holding portion for arrangement externally of the container and movable relative to the container, and

a receiving portion for arrangement in the container, ~~which receiving portion is designed to hold the at least one receiving element,~~

wherein the receiving portion defines at least one hole sized to hold the at least one receiving element and serve as a collecting vessel for collecting a biological specimen recovered using laser microdissection from biological material to be disposed in the container and wherein the holding portion and the receiving portion are coupled in a contactless manner in such a way that the receiving portion is held in the container via the holding portion and the at least one hole of the receiving portion with the at least one receiving element may be positioned at multiple locations within the container by moving the holding portion.

2 (cancelled).

3 (previously presented). A holding device according to claim 1, wherein

the holding device with the holding portion and the receiving portion is designed for performing laser microdissection in the closed container with regard to biological material to be arranged in the closed container.

4 (previously presented). A holding device according to claim 1, wherein

the receiving portion is designed to hold at least one cap-type receiving element for accommodating a biological specimen in the container.

5 (currently amended). A holding device according to claim 1, wherein

the receiving portion is designed to hold a plurality of receiving elements element in the container.

6 (previously presented). A holding device according to claim 1 wherein

the receiving portion to be arranged in the container is made from a material which does not impair the biological properties of a biological specimen received by the at least one receiving means element, which is held by the receiving portion in the container.

7 (previously presented). A holding device according to claim 1 wherein

the holding portion and the receiving portion are made from a plastics material.

8 (previously presented). A holding device according to claim 1, wherein

the receiving portion is made from polytetrafluoroethylene.

9 (previously presented). A holding device according to claim 1 wherein

the holding portions is made from polytetrafluoroethylene.

10 (previously presented). A holding device according to claim 1, wherein

the holding portion is coupled with the receiving portion in contactless manner by a magnetic coupling.

11 (previously presented). A holding device according to claim 1 wherein

the holding device is so designed that it allows good illumination of biological material located in the container and/or good illumination of the biological specimen received in the receiving element.

12 (previously presented). A combination of a container and a holding device according to claim 1 for holding in the container at least one receiving element, provided in the container, for receiving a biological specimen.

13 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 12, wherein

the container takes the form of a Petri dish.

14 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 12, wherein

the container comprises a main body with a base for biological material and a cover for covering and closing the main body.

15 (previously presented). A combination according to claim 14, wherein

the base of the main body comprises a first membrane, which is laser light-transmitting, and, arranged on the first membrane, a second membrane which is laser light-absorbing.

16 (previously presented). A laser microdissection system having a holding device according to claim 1.

17 (previously presented). A laser microdissection system according to claim 16, wherein

the laser microdissection system is designed for computer-assisted positioning of the receiving portion in the container by computer-assisted adjustment of the holding portion of the holding device.

18 (cancelled).

19 (currently amended). A method according to claim 24 48, wherein

in the step of arranging the holding portion, the holding portion is arranged externally of the container in the vicinity of the receiving portion located in the container.

20 (currently amended). A method according to claim 24 48, wherein

in the step of arranging the receiving portion, the receiving portion is arranged on the inside of a cover of the container, and

in the step of arranging the holding portion, the holding portion is arranged on the outside of the cover.

21 (previously amended). A method according to claim 20, wherein,

after arrangement of the receiving portion on the inside of the cover and of the holding portions on the outside of the cover, the arrangement consisting of the holding portion, the cover and the receiving portion is combined in such a way with a main body of the container that the cover covers the main body and the receiving portion on the inside of the cover is arranged inside the container formed by the main body and the cover.

22 (currently amended). A method according to claim 24 48, wherein

the receiving portion is sterilized before the step of arranging the receiving portion is performed.

23 (currently amended). A method according to claim 24 48, wherein

the holding portion and the receiving portion form a holding device according to claim 1.

24 (currently amended). A method for laser microdissection in a container, comprising the steps of:

arranging a receiving portion, which is designed to hold at least one receiving element, in the container,

arranging a holding portion externally of the container,

positioning the receiving portion in the container by means of contactless coupling between the holding portion and the receiving portion by moving the holding portion in a direction relative to the container;

holding in the container at least one receiving element for receiving a biological specimen detached by means of laser microdissection from biological material located in the container ~~assembled by means of a method according to claim 18 in the container₁~~;

detaching at least one biological specimen by laser microdissection from the biological material located in the container₁; and

receiving the at least one biological specimen by the at least one receiving element held in the container₁

wherein the receiving portion is held in the container by the holding portion by means of the contactless coupling.

25 (previously presented). A method according to claim 24, wherein

the method is performed in computer-assisted manner.

26 (previously presented). A method according to claim 24, wherein,

to perform the method, a holding device according to claim 1 is used to hold the at least one receiving element in the container.

27 (previously presented). A method according to claim 24, wherein,

to perform laser microdissection, a combination of the closed container and a holding device according to claim 12 is used.